

App. Serial No.: 09/051,263

Atty. Docket No.: 0081-012

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REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action (Restriction Requirement) dated July 26, 2006, which has a shortened statutory period for response set to expire August 26, 2006. A one-month extension of time, to expire September 26, 2006, is requested in a petition filed herewith.

Specification

The specification is amended to correctly set forth the priority claims for the present application. As amended, the "Related Applications" section now corresponds to the priority claims set forth in the signed declaration.

Claims

Claims 1-44 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-44 are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-44 remain as filed.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-12 and 27-30) for prosecution on the merits. Applicants' election is made without prejudice and with traverse.

Interview Summary

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Aimee Li for extending a telephone interview on September 6, 2006, with Nema Berezny, F. Eric Saunders, and Charles H. Moore to discuss the restriction groups made by Examiner Li.

Groups II and V were discussed to include the following claims:

Group II – Claims 13-15 and 39-42; and

Group V – Claims 25-26.

Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's Interview Summary mailed September 14, 2006 and found it to be a thorough and accurate representation of the substance of the interview. However, Applicants would like to clarify one aspect of the interview. In particular, although the facts surrounding the loss of the case by the Office and the resulting shortened patent term were discussed, these facts were not presented as reasons undermining the propriety of the restriction requirement.

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New Customer Number

Currently Customer No. 40972 is assigned to this application. Applicants hereby request that Customer No. 63015 now be assigned to this application instead. Customer No. 63015 includes the current attorney of record, as well as Applicants' in-house representative.

Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at (269) 279-8820.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/25/06

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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via facsimile, on the date shown below, to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at (571) 273-8300.

Date: 9/25/06

Larry E. Henneman, Jr.  
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